

REMARKS

The rejections of:

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, and of Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 5,827,632 (Inaba '632), “as evidenced by applicants’ admission in the instant specification at page 37, lines 11-22, and the tables at page 115, embodiment 7, and the accompanying text (applicants’ admissions I)”,

Claims 12 and 13, and Claims 12 and 15, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 2003/0118366 (Nukada et al) combined with Inaba '632, as evidenced by applicants’ admissions I,

Claims 1-5 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 5,712,072 (Inaba '072), combined with U.S. 6,403,271 (Suzuki et al), as evidenced by applicants’ admissions I,

Claims 6-9 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nukada et al combined with Inaba '072, combined with Suzuki et al, as evidenced by applicants’ admissions I,

Claims 1-9, 11 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 6,177,223 (Hashimoto et al), combined with Suzuki et al, as evidenced by applicants’ admissions I,

Claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nukada et al combined with Hashimoto et al and Suzuki et al, as evidenced by applicants’ admissions I, are respectfully traversed.

Hashimoto et al, which was not applied in the previous Office Action, has been applied for reasons similar to Inaba '632 and Inaba '072. The Examiner has also applied Suzuki et al in combination with Hashimoto et al in the same manner in which it was applied

with Inaba '632 and Inaba '072. Thus, Applicants continue to rely on all the arguments made in the previous response, filed May 10, 2006, with regard to these references. While the Examiner finds that she has carried her burden by a preponderance of the evidence that her presumptions from the disclosures of Inaba '632 and Suzuki et al, together with her so-called applicants' admissions I (which Applicants maintain is improper for reasons previously argued) are correct, thereby putting the burden on Applicants to prove her presumptions wrong, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not carried her burden sufficient to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness, for reasons previously advanced.

In addition to the arguments of record, the newly-submitted Mochizuki Declaration demonstrates superiority for the recited average degree of roundness range of 0.975-0.990 of the inorganic fine particles, which superiority could not have been predicted from the applied prior art. Indeed, Comparison Examples B and C are closer to the presently-claimed invention than any developer of the applied prior art. (Note that "Embodiment" in the Comparison Table of the Mochizuki Declaration is the same as "Embodiment A" identified in the text of thereof.)

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over prior art be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed August 14, 2006 and the List of Related Cases filed November 20, 2006. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form PTO 1449 submitted with the IDS, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

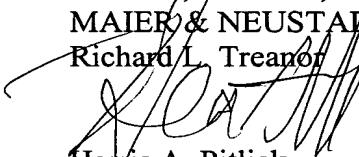
Respectfully submitted,

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